

BAY CITY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BCATS)

Technical Committee Minutes - August 9, 2007

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Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

Those present were:

Dave Engelhardt, BCATS staff; Dirk Westbury, BCATS staff; John Gaydos, City of Bay City; Jay Riethel, MDOT; Adam Rivard, MDOT; Jim Lillo, Bay County Road Commission.

It was moved by Gaydos, seconded by Lillo, to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2007 meeting. Motion Passed.

BCATS 2035 Long Range Plan Approved:

Engelhardt received notice from Jim Cramer of MDOT that the BCATS 2035 Long Range Plan was approved as being SAFETEA-LU compliant.

New TIP Funding Mechanism:

Engelhardt provided members with a flowchart and discussed the new TIP funding mechanism. Based on the information provided, it would seem that there is a question on how MPOs would get notification of jobs. MPOs must follow the legislation that has been written regarding the use of lump sum or pro-rata for projects. There is also some concern because the new mechanism doesn't seem to allow for any cushion or padding for projects. It seems that there is a $\pm 10\%$ floating percentage for projects.

Funding Recisions:

Recisions will impact project funds and in the future it will most likely tap into existing funds. Some of our STP funds in the future may be reallocated.

DNR Letter Regarding Transportation Plan:

Engelhardt provided members with a copy of the letter from the DNR regarding the Transportation Plan.

BCATS Soft Match:

Engelhardt discussed BCATS soft match funds and explained that much of this figure comes from traffic counts. However, over the past few years the traffic count amounts haven't been enough to make up the 20% of soft match required. Engelhardt emphasized the importance of everyone keeping accurate accounts of actual costs. He felt that there are other processes that can be looked at to include in the soft match. It is important that BCATS accounts for everything it can. MDOT is coming up with a list of acceptable processes for soft match.

Local Roads Asset Management:

In our UWP we are authorized for \$20,000 for asset management. However, traditionally we only spend between \$10,000 and \$11,000. This year BCATS spent \$5,000 for Westbury's time for asset management (this is a historical amount). There's not match for this fund and BCATS must use it or lose it. Engelhardt is looking into how we can change the UWP in order to use funds for rating local roads or pavement management. There is no reimbursement for gravel or dirt road assessment.

Letter of Support - Christa McAuliffe Middle School for SR2S:

Engelhardt provided members with a handout of his letter of support for the Christa McAuliffe Middle school for the Safe Route to School program.

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Letter of Support - Henry Street Sidewalks:

Engelhardt provided members with a handout of his letter of support for the Henry Street sidewalks to be a participating items.

Road Commission Safety Grant Award:

The Road Commission has been awarded a Safety Grant for the Seven Mile over Bradford Creek Project. Therefore, we need to amend the TIP to include this project so it's in the next cycle.

BCATS Non-Motorized Plan:

Engelhardt would like to update the current BCATS Non-Motorized Plan since MDOT is in the process of creating a regional plan. It would be advantageous for BCATS to update the Non-Motorized Plan in order to join in MDOT's kick-off taking place this September.

Michigan Communities for a Lifetime:

The Bay County Michigan State University Extension has made application to the Michigan Communities for a Lifetime program to get our community classified as a senior friendly town. The theory being that if a community is senior friendly, it will be accessible for everyone. Transportation is a component for this program so it will be important to look at what is available and what will be needed. BCATS will need to determine how we fit into this process.

Project Updates:

The ***Pine Road Project*** for reconstruction will be let September 30, 2007. The ***Wenonah Street Project*** has been completed. The only problem still lingering with this project are the bags used for drainage. The ***Woodside Avenue Project*** will begin on September 4, 2007. The ***North Henry Street Project*** is ready to advertise and there is a planned September 28, 2007 let. The ***M-25 Project*** has completed the eastbound lane.

Other/New Business:

Local Jobs Today:

There are some leftover funds within the Local Jobs Today program that may be used for safety projects.

Letter of Support-University Trail:

Engelhardt will be writing a letter of support for the University Trail that will join SVSU and Delta College.

As there was no further business, the August 9, 2007 BCATS Technical Committee meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Engelhardt
BCATS Director

Transcribed by C. Gaul